

COUNTRY

East Germany

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TOPIC

Finow Airfield

EVALUATION

25X1

PLACE OBTAINED

25X1

DATE OF CONTENT

25 February to 19 March 1953

DATE OBTAINED

25X1

DATE PREPARED 9 April 1953

REFERENCES

PAGES

3

ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. The following air activity and aircraft were observed at Finow airfield between 25 February and 5 March 1953:

25 February. Between 7:40 and 10 a.m., there was air activity including individual take-offs by MiG-15 and type-29 planes. Night flying was practiced by swept-back jet fighters. There was a closed cloud base. During the noon hours, four biplanes from the Finow-North airfield circled over the field.

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26 February. Between 11:50 a.m. and 3 p.m., no air activity was observed. After 4:30 p.m., some MiG-15s

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landed at the field. After 6 p.m., there was night flying. During the landings, the runway was lighted by a searchlight.

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27 February. Throughout the day, there was air activity by aircraft, including three MiG-15s

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and one Yak-11 plane. The planes mostly practiced flying in formations of two, three and four planes. Flying was continued at night, while the visibility was good and the sky slightly cloudy.

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28 February. There was air activity throughout the day. Vapor trails were observed during high-altitude flights. At 4:15 p.m., 7 swept-back jet fighters and 4 alert planes

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were parked at the take-off point. Two additional MiG-15s were observed just south of the alert flight and about 34 MiG-15 and type-29 planes on the northern edge of the field. At the same time, some swept-back jet fighters were aloft.

1 March. Between 8:30 a.m. and 6 p.m., there was air activity. Visibility was good and the sky was slightly cloudy.

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25X1

- 2 -

2 March. Throughout the day, local flights were made by individual swept-back jet fighters and practice flights were made in elements of two and four. In the afternoon, individual MiG-15 and type-29 planes dived at an angle of 35 degrees without firing. The planes came down to 400 meters above the ground. There was the same fair weather as on 1 March.

5 March. Flying was practiced throughout the day. There was good visibility and a slight cloud base. Low level attacks were made over the field.¹

2. On 26 and 28 February, six 37-mm AA guns were observed in the AA gun emplacement in the southeastern corner of the field. On 26 February, the guns were not covered with tarpaulins. Soldiers practiced with the guns.²

3. The following air activity was observed at the field between 28 February and 16 March:

28 February. There was air activity by individual planes and formation flying. The planes which flew individually winged over to the left and, subsequently, climbed again. The weather was clear and cloudless.

1 March. There was the same weather and the same air activity as on the preceding day. [redacted]

25X1 [redacted] Two planes towed sleeve
25X1 targets.

27 February to 5 March. Night flying was observed repeatedly. The planes took off individually and, in single instances, assembled in formations, which remained aloft for about 20 minutes. A rotary searchlight which flashed up for 45 seconds every 3 minutes lighted the field. Another searchlight illuminated the runway. It was switched off as soon as the plane rolled to a stop. During the take-offs, only the runway lights were on. The aircraft flew with their position lights on.

25X1 15 March. Individual take-offs were made in the morning. [redacted]

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11 to 16 March. Night flying was practiced in the same manner as on the first days in March.¹

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4. In early March, [redacted] the field was surrounded by a fence on all sides. A board fence extended along the Biesenthaler Strasse and along the northern edge of Jagen (forest sub-district) 222. The southern and western edges were surrounded by a barbed wire fence. A high watchtower which was occupied was observed at the northern edge of Jagen 222. Sentries patrolled in the southern and western sections of the field.

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- 3 -

5. A number of shrapnelproof aircraft revetments covered with earth and lined with cement slabs were observed at the field.

6. An AA gun emplacement, probably with 37-mm AA guns, was observed in the area of the former flight control building at the field.² East of the emplacement there were two radar sets.³

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7. At 1:30 p.m. on 5 March, several swept-back jet fighters landed at the field. At 7:45 p.m., there was air activity while a number of searchlights were in operation.

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25X1 Comment. Finow airfield is occupied by the headquarters of a fighter division and two fighter regiments which are equipped with about 50 MiG-15s.

25X1 The intensive air activity at Finow airfield agrees with the observations made at other airfields. Low level attacks and diving practices were repeatedly reported from other fields.

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Comment. The presence of the AA gun emplacement in the south-eastern section of the field, which was repeatedly reported, is believed to be correct. The AA gun emplacement formerly reported on the northern edge of the landing field has not been observed during the last months. In September 1952, tents indicative of an AA gun emplacement were observed there. Further information is required to determine whether the emplacement is still located there.

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25X1A Comment. According to a rough sketch which was not forwarded, one radar set and the other set is equipped with Yagi type antennas. The set was previously observed in the restricted area north-northeast of the airfield.

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